

BACTERIAL CULTURE AND STAINING FOR TUBERCULOSIS, SPUTUM
Ex-TbVi

Since tuberculosis bacteria are secreted irregularly, sputum samples should be collected on three consecutive mornings.

Collecting the sample

Cough the morning sputum (2–5 mL) directly into an open container. Ensure you cough effectively to produce sputum. Saliva or mucus from the throat (collected without coughing) is not a valid sample. Close the sample container tightly.

Marking the sample container

Write your name, personal identification code and the sample dates on the stickers. Place the stickers on the side of the containers.

Place the sample container in a tightly sealable plastic bag.

Transporting the sample to the laboratory

All samples should be delivered to the laboratory on the sample collection date (excluding weekends). If this is not possible, the samples should be stored in the refrigerator. If you have a referral for treatment / request for examination from a physician, bring it with you.